

AMENDMENTS

In The Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 – 13. (cancelled).

Claim 14. (original) A method for starting a vehicle, said vehicle comprising a vehicle engine, a starter motor linked to said vehicle engine through an engine clutch, and a plurality of vehicle systems linked to said starter motor, said method comprising the steps of:

starting said starter motor;

checking the status of one or more of said vehicle systems to determine whether said vehicle engine should be started;

applying a torque to said vehicle engine by connecting said vehicle engine with said starter motor through said engine clutch; and

confirming whether said vehicle engine has successfully started.

Claim 15. (original) The method of claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

providing a multi-position ignition switch linked to said starter motor;

recognizing the initial status of one or more of said vehicle systems required to start said vehicle engine; and

detecting whether said multi-position ignition switch is in a pre-determined position.

Claim 16. (original) The method of claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

providing a multi-position ignition switch linked to said starter motor;

recognizing the initial status of one or more of said vehicle systems required to start said vehicle engine;

detecting whether said multi-position ignition switch is not positioned in a pre-determined position for a set length of time; and
shutting down the starter motor.

Claim 17. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein said vehicle further comprises a set of gears linked to said starter motor through a transmission clutch, said initial status of one or more of said vehicle systems required to start said vehicle engine comprising at least one member of the following group:

- the engagement of said set of gears;
- the engagement of said transmission clutch;
- the engagement of said engine clutch; and
- the operation of said vehicle.

Claim 18. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein said step of checking the status of one or more engine systems further comprises the steps of:

evaluating the amount of time said vehicle engine has idled without a start attempt; and

detecting whether said multi-position ignition switch is in a pre-determined position.

Claim 19. (original) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of shutting down said starter motor if the amount of time said vehicle engine has idled reaches a predetermined length.

Claim 20. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein said step of confirming whether said vehicle engine has successfully started further comprises the steps of:

evaluating whether the current angular velocity of said vehicle engine is greater than that of the vehicle engine while idle;

evaluating the time said vehicle engine has been cranking without starting, if said vehicle engine's speed is less than idle speed; and

shutting down said starter motor if said time of cranking is greater than a pre-determined length of time.